

REMARKS

The Office Action dated March 31, 2006 has been received and carefully reviewed. The preceding amendments and the following remarks form a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-32 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer with respect to the cancelled subject matter. New claims 33-61 have been added. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claims 33-61 are pending in this application and are submitted for consideration.

In the Office Action, claims 1-24 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for failing to meet the statutory requirements for claimed subject matter. Claims 1-24 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. According this rejection is moot, and the Applicant thereby requests its withdrawal.

Claims 25-27 and 29-32 were rejected under 25 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by either WO 96/15450 to Zanzucchi or U.S. Patent No. 6,485,690 to Pfof. Claims 25-27 and 29-32 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. According this rejection is moot, and the Applicant thereby requests its withdrawal.

Applicants submit that new claims 33-61 recite subject matter not disclosed by any of the cited prior art.

Both Zanzucchi and Pfof disclose microfluidic support arrays. Neither reference discloses, inter alia, altered cross sections of the feed (and discharge) channels so as to have non-uniform shapes (e.g., tapered or funnelled) in order to influence the flow therein, as claimed by claim 33, upon which claims 34-61 depend. For example, see

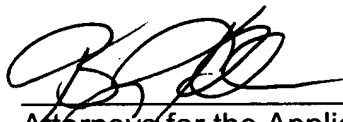
Figs. 1, and 6-7 of the present application. Thus, the Applicant submits that the cited prior art fails to disclose each and every feature of claims 33-61 and therefore, claims 33-61 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and requests that claims 33-61 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

In the event that this paper is not timely filled, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the Applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

10/2/06
Date


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